

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 00966 221738Z

62

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 221635Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9146

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 0966

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IT, US, CSCE

SUBJECT: BREZHNEV LETTER TO ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER

GENEVA FOR CSCE DELEGATION

REF: A. ROME 17670; B. ROME 0922

1. MFA'S SOVIET DESK OFFICER (VECCHI) SHOWED US A LETTER FROM SOVIET GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV (WITHOUT HANDWRITTEN SIGNATURE) TO PRIME MINISTER MORO WHICH SOVIET AMBASSADOR HANDED TO MORO ON JANUARY 16. LETTER WAS DATED JANUARY 7 RPT 7 AND WAS IN RESPONSE TO MORO'S RECENT LETTER TO BREZHNEV (REFTEL A) REITERATING OFFICIAL INVITATION TO VISIT ITALY.

2. IN HIS LETTER BREZHNEV LEFT OPEN THE DATE OF HIS POSSIBLE VISIT, BUT HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT IT WOULD OCCUR AT AN EARLY TIME SO AS TO PERMIT HIM TO BECOME BETTER ACQUAINTED WITH ITALY. HE NOTED THAT THE USSR ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH ITALY AND STRESSED THAT THE RESULTS OF MORO'S VISIT TO MOSCOW
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PAGE 02 ROME 00966 221738Z

LAST JULY DEMONSTRATED THE POSSIBILITY TO DEEPEN THESE TIES.

3. BREZHNEV THEN WENT ON TO RAISE THE IMPORTANCE THE SOVIETS ATTACHE TO THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF CSCE. HE DESCRIBED CSCE AS PLAYING QUOTE A PARAMOUNT ROLE END QUOTE IN THE PROCESS OF EASING TENSION IN EUROPE. APPARENTLY REFERRING TO HIS RECENT TALKS WITH US. GERMAN, AND FRENCH LEADERS, BREZHNEV WROTE THAT MORE COUNTRIES NOW RECOGNIZE THAT THE PROGRESS ALREADY ACHIEVED AT GENEVA REPRESENTS IMPORTANT PRECONDITIONS FOR THE EARLY COMPLETION OF THE SECOND STAGE OF CSCE AND THE CONVOCAION OF A THIRD STAGE WITH PARTICIPATION AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL.

4. CONCERNING THE POSSIBLE TIMING OF BREZHNEV'S VISIT, VECCHI SAID A SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICER RECENTLY INDICATED TO AN ITALIAN JOURNALIST THAT IT COULD TAKE PLACE NEXT OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER. THE SOVIET CITED ITALIAN DOMESTIC CONSIDERATIONS E.G., THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS IN MARCH, THE REGIONAL ELECTIONS IN THE SPRING WHICH DOULD LEAD TO A NEW GOVERNMENT CRISIS AND THE SUMMER VACATION PERIOD, AS THE PRINCIPAL REASONS FOR THE DELAY OF BREZHNEV'S VISIT. VOLPE

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